

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A manufacturing apparatus for multi-fiber optical ferrule ~~of the type~~ which includes two or more molds having fitting ~~groove~~ grooves for an optical fiber in which pins for forming fiber holes can be placed and fitting ~~groove~~ grooves for guide holes in which pins for forming guide holes can be placed, the pins for forming fiber holes being placed in the fitting groove for an optical fiber, the pins for forming guide holes being placed in the fitting groove for guide holes, a spacer in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped being placed between the pins for forming fiber holes, closing being effected with the two or more molds, resin being poured into the molds to thereby manufacture a multi-fiber optical ferrule having two or more rows of fiber holes, wherein the hardness of the spacer is equivalent to or higher than the hardness of the pins for forming fiber holes.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A manufacturing apparatus for multi-fiber optical ferrule ~~of the type~~ which includes two or more molds having fitting ~~groove~~ grooves for an optical fiber in which pins for forming fiber holes can be placed and fitting ~~groove~~ grooves for guide holes in which pins for forming guide holes can be placed, the pins for forming fiber holes being placed in the fitting groove for an optical fiber, the pins for forming guide holes being placed in the fitting groove for guide holes, a spacer in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped being placed between the pins for forming fiber holes, closing being effected with the two or more dies, resin being poured into the molds to thereby manufacture a multi-fiber optical ferrule having two or more rows of optical fiber holes, wherein corner portions with respect to the arrangement direction of the pins for forming fiber holes of the spacer are formed as inclined surfaces or rounded surfaces.

Claim 3 (Original): A manufacturing apparatus for multi-fiber optical ferrule according to Claim 1, wherein corner portions with respect to the arrangement direction of the pins for forming fiber holes of the spacer are formed as inclined surfaces or rounded surfaces.